

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to family commitment, I was unable to vote on H.R. 1897. Had I been present I would have voted "aye".

Due to this commitment, I was unable to vote on H.R. 2879. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

Had I been present for votes on H.R. 367, I would have voted "no" on Amendment 1, "no" on Amendment 3, "no" on Amendment 4, "aye" on Amendment 6, "aye" on Amendment 7, "aye" on Amendment 8, "aye" on Amendment 12, "aye" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 367, and "no" on H.R. 367.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2009 and "no" on H.R. 2009.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on August 1 and 2, I was absent for personal reasons and missed roll Nos. 428 through 447. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll Nos. 428, 429, 431, 435, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, and 446. I would have voted "nay" on roll Nos. 430, 432, 433, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 445, and 447.

## IN RECOGNITION OF OLIVE G. MAYER

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Olive G. Mayer, a dear friend and a pioneer in the environmental community of California. She was one of the passionate driving forces in protecting open spaces in San Mateo County.

Sadly, Ollie missed the completion of one of her biggest achievements. She passed away five days before the opening ceremony of the Devil's Slide Tunnel on the San Mateo coast, a project she and her fellow tunnelistas had been advocating for decades. The engineering marvel that most people said couldn't be done is now reality thanks in huge part to Ollie's passion and persistence.

An engineer by training and Sierra Club member, she got her hands on the original construction plans for the massive seven mile long, six-lane wide highway bypass that Caltrans had proposed to build across Montara Mountain—plans Caltrans never released to the public. Ollie shared them with other environmentalists who formed a grass-roots movement determined to stop the bypass and urban sprawl along the scenic coastal hills.

The idea for a tunnel was born in the early 70s when a USGS geologist responded to a

Montara resident inquiring about solutions for Devil's Slide. He outlined several options, including boring a tunnel. Ollie presented the idea to Caltrans engineers in 1973, but they dismissed it. The tunnel idea continued its lengthy legal and rocky path. In 1995, Devil's Slide lived up to its name and slid down five feet. The road stayed closed for five months making life miserable for coastal residents and forcing local businesses to close.

The tunnelistas jumped into high gear, collected 34,000 signatures and put the issue on the county ballot. San Mateo County was blanketed in yellow and black "Think Tunnel" bumper stickers. In 1996, Measure T passed with 74% of the vote. Seventeen years and countless hurdles later, the tunnel is finally reality. David beat Goliath. Ollie's good friend and tunnelista Zoe Kersteen-Tucker put it perfectly at the opening ceremony: "It took an uprising of the people to think tunnel, vote tunnel, build tunnel and today, at last, to open tunnel."

Devil's Slide was but one of many battles Ollie took on. She was a lifelong activist, visionary and intellectual. Born Olive Graham Hendricks in New Jersey in 1918, she was the only woman in her class at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania to earn her BS in engineer. She later received her Master's degree from the University of Michigan. Ollie was an ardent fighter for equal treatment of women and freedom of speech. During the McCarthy era, she provided support for victims of blacklisting and was under surveillance and investigated by the FBI. She was among the early peace activists opposing the war in Vietnam. She fought for racial and civil equality in the 50s and 60s. In short, she was fearless and determined to make the world a better place for everyone to enjoy.

Ollie loved the outdoors and science. She met her late husband, Dr. Henry Mayer, while hiking in Colorado. They married in 1941 and after World War II moved to Woodside, California. Ollie opened a machine shop in San Carlos and founded a business that made and distributed model science projects, such as dams and power plants, for middle and high school students.

Ollie was a tireless supporter of the Peninsula Open Space Trust and played a significant role in keeping areas on the Peninsula undeveloped and accessible to the public. She was the president of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club and was honored with the John Muir Award for her lifetime work for conservation. She was also named a "Legend" by the Club, and she was appointed to the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame, among a long list of other awards.

Ollie is survived by her daughter Judith O'Brien; son Robert Mayer; and four grandchildren: Connor and Lauren O'Brien and Reid and Drew Mayer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor one of the most extraordinary and giving environmentalists and human beings—a woman who found her true north.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN  
BETO O'ROURKE INTRODUCING  
THE HEALTHY TRANSITIONS FOR  
VETERANS ACT**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce bipartisan legislation that will assist servicemembers as they transition back to civilian life. We have a fundamental responsibility to provide for the needs of our veterans who have sacrificed their comfort and safety for ours. The Healthy Transitions for Veterans Act will help us meet that responsibility by requiring the Department of Defense (DoD) to perform two simple and common sense tasks:

1. Provide a comprehensive physical examination to all servicemembers of the active, guard, and reserve components when they separate from military service.

2. Provide separating servicemembers with an electronic copy of their complete medical records.

Currently, servicemembers in the Guard and Reserve are not required to have physical examinations when separating from military service. This can result in a lack of documentation of service-connected injuries and medical conditions and is one of the reasons that former Guard and Reserve members who file disability claims with the VA are 4 times more likely to get an unfavorable decision than their active duty counterpart.

Providing all servicemembers the ability to take ownership of their complete health record will also ensure a smoother transition into the VA health care system as DoD and VA struggle to make their systems interoperable. For veterans who may apply for VA benefits, having their full medical record from the military will make the application process more efficient. VA employees would not have to track down evidence or engage in time consuming correspondence with the applicant to locate medical records from the DoD. This is good not just for the individual veteran, but for the entire VA system that continues to struggle to reduce the claims backlog.

I have the honor of representing Fort Bliss and the 33,000 active duty soldiers stationed there. I also represent nearly 80,000 veterans. All of these individuals, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America" for an amount of "up to and including my life." Our responsibility to these men and women does not end when we bring them home from war. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation and help guarantee our servicemembers make a healthy transition back to civilian life.

## CONCERNING JOHN R. PARKER

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John R. Parker on his retirement and honor his thirteen years of service as Chairman of the Jones County, Mississippi Republican Party.